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BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT
HEREFORDSHIRE



Annual Report
on the State of the Public Health
for the Year 1944.

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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT:

Medical Officer of Health:

H. F. Green, M.A., M.B., D.P.H. (on War Service from 17-7-42).

Acting Medical Officer of Health (Deputy County Medical Officer):

I. F. MacKenzie, M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
(Priv. Tel. Weobley 59).

Clerk in Northern Area Medical Office:

B. J. Scandrett. (On War Service from 1939).

Temporary Clerk: Miss D. M. J. Bramfitt.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:

T. S. Watts, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,
(Part-Time). Cert. Meat Inspector. Resigned 21-10-44.

J. N. S. Harrison, M.S.I.A., M.I.E.T. (appointed 10-2-45).

Acting Sanitary Inspector: E. E. Jordan (Sanitary Inspector
and Surveyor, Ledbury R. D. Council).

Public Health Office:

4, Church Street, Leominster. (Tel. Leom. 95).

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Bromyard Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Members,

I present herewith the Annual Report for the year 1944.

It is with pleasure that I place on record the high standard maintained by your Sanitary Inspector in the execution of his varied duties up to the date of his resignation from the Council's service. During the transition period, valuable assistance was given by Mr. E. E. Jordan of Ledbury, in the carrying out of emergency sanitary work.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

I. F. MACKENZIE.

June, 1945.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Area (in Acres) | ... 61,000 |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943) according to Rate Books | ... 2,018 |
| Rateable Value | £16,909 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | £76/16/6 |

Extract from Vital Statistics of the Year:

| | |
|---|------|
| Birth Rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population) ... | 20.4 |
| Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births) ... | 33.4 |
| Death Rate (per 1,000 of estimated resident population) ... | 12.1 |
| Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) ... | 34.7 |
| Deaths from Puerperal Causes: No deaths attributable to puerperal infection occurred during 1944. | |

Comparable Data for England and Wales 1944.

| Birth Rate. | Still Birth Rate. | Death Rate. | Infantile Mortality Rate. |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 17.6. | 30. | 11.6. | 46.0. |

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:

Laboratory Facilities:

Laboratory facilities continued to be available at the County Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which, for the duration of the war, is under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

Clinics:

There are none provided by the authority. Under a County Council Scheme a Child Welfare Clinic is held on alternate Thursdays, at 2 p.m., in Froome Bank, Bromyard. Residents in the Rural Area are invited to attend.

The nearest Venereal Diseases Clinic is at the County Hospital, Hereford.

I am indebted to Mr. T. S. Watts and to Mr. Jordan for the following statement (Sections C. to E.) furnished under Article 27 (Sub-Section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies:

With the exception of the Council's Houses at Wolferlow and Pencombe, all piped supplies in the District are privately owned.

Section C.—Continued.

A number of complaints of shortage of water were reported during the year. The areas most affected were in the parishes of Ocle Pychard and Avenbury. During the peak dry period water was hauled to containers provided by the Council, placed at four different points. A recurrence of similar conditions is unlikely; the year being the driest on record to Septembdr, and this was preceded by two abnormally dry years.

Most of the supplies in the District are from Wells and Springs.

Drainage and Sewerage:

The only sewer vested in the Council is that serving Bishops Frome Village. The outfall is at a ditch on the Ledbury/Bromyard road.

Rivers and Streams:

No complaints of pollution have been received during the year.

Refuse Disposal:

There is no organised refuse collection in the District and no request for collection has been made.

| | | No. of Inspections. | Informal Notices. | Statutory Notices. | Complied With. |
|-------------------------|-----|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Housing Act, 1936 | ... | ... | 22 | 4 | - 4 |
| Public Health Act, 1936 | | ... | 82 | 14 | - 12 |
| Cowsheds | ... | ... | 212 | 18 | 3 18 |
| Factories and Workshops | | ... | 17 | 1 | - 1 |
| Bakehouses | ... | ... | 25 | - | - |
| Butchers Shops | ... | ... | 85 | 5 | 1 - |
| Hop Pickers Quarters | ... | ... | 132 | 4 | - 4 |
| Nuisances (Complaints) | | ... | 13 | 4 | - 4 |
| Water Supplies | ... | ... | 82 | 2 | 1 3 |
| Infectious Disease | | ... | 75 | - | - |

Camping Sites.

Three camping sites in the District are licensed. A good water supply is laid on and adequate sanitary accommodation is provided. No complaints were received.

Bed Bugs.

No reports of bed bug infestation were received.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Eight new houses were erected during the year. The total number of Council houses is now 16. They are situated as follows:

| | | | |
|------------------|---|---------------|---|
| Pencombe ... | 4 | Wolferton ... | 2 |
| Much Cowarne ... | 4 | Avonbury ... | 2 |
| Stoke Lacy ... | 4 | | |

Van Dwellings.

No cases of vans overstaying the statutory period were noted.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

Samples of Designated milk are taken quarterly on behalf of the County Council.

212 visits were made to cowsheds and dairies.

As the result of inspections during the year, several infringements of the Milk and Dairies Order were noted. In one case proceedings were instituted for failing to maintain the cowshed in a cleanly condition and failing to keep the fold yard clean. A fine and costs were imposed.

Meat.

Butchers' shops throughout the district were inspected.

Food found to be unfit for human consumption.

Fifteen pounds of bacon was destroyed on account of decomposition.

Hop-Pickers' Quarters.

The Hop-pickers' quarters in the District were inspected, and 132 visits were made.

Considerable improvements were noted, particularly in one case where the owner has erected new buildings, the old buildings having been the subject of long standing complaints.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifications of Infectious Disease received during the year numbered 98. Scarlet Fever provided the highest number, there being 34 instances of this disease. Fortunately all were mild in character.

The outbreak of Diphtheria which occurred at Stoke Lacy has already been reported on fully. It is sufficient to recall that there were 14 cases notified; and that the measures which were taken to

Section F.—continued.

control the spread of the disease were rapidly effective. The acceptance rate for Diphtheria Immunisation was raised considerably as a result of the local alarm created by the outbreak.

Analysis of Total Notified Cases, according to age:

| DISEASE. | Age of Patient. | | | | | | | | | | | | | Over 40 | Un- known | Total |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|------------|--------------|-------|
| | 0-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-6 | 6-7 | 7-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-30 | 30-40 | | | | |
| Measles | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 6 | |
| Whooping Cough... | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | 24 | |
| Ac, Prim, Pneumonia | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 16 | |
| Erysipelas | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | |
| Scarlet Fever ... | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 8 | 16 | 3 | - | 2 | 1 | - | 34 | |
| Diphtheria | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | - | 2 | 14 | |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | 3 | |

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The state of Immunisation of the child population of the district at the end of 1944 is indicated in the table below.

| Under 5 years of age. | | Between 5 and 15 years of age. | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Number. | Percentage of Group. | Number. | Percentage of Group. |
| 212 | 35.2 % | 736 | 57.1 % |

Though the numbers of children immunised is much lower than was to have been expected from the considerable efforts which have been made to persuade parents to have their children treated, the percentages attained approximate to and in some instances are higher than those reached in other parts of the country. The lack of interest at present shown by many parents exemplifies a well-recognised social phenomenon which is also reflected in the low proportion of children vaccinated against Small Pox and in the small take-up of the Ministry of Food Vitamin preparations for infants. Following the rush to have children protected when the Campaign for Diphtheria Immunisation was inaugurated in 1941 there has been a continuing

lack of response by parents who did not then accept treatment even though the efficiency of our publicity methods have been stepped up by the co-operation of the District Nurse Health Visitors and School Medical Officers; and by the distribution of new leaflets and pre-paid acceptance cards to all homes where there are children under the age of 15 years.

By arrangement with the County Education Committee special immunisation sessions are held at the nearest school whenever completed forms for 5 or more children (of school or pre-school age) are received. When the number of acceptances is less than 5 they are retained until more are received or if the parents wish immediate action to be taken they are directed to the nearest Child Welfare Clinic.

Immunisation material is issued from the Leominster Office free of charge to doctors for the treatment of children in their practices. It should be noted that private doctors, some of whom do a lot of immunisation work in their practices, do not make a return to the Public Health Office on the number of children treated by them. These children therefore could not be included in the figures set out above.

Tuberculosis.

At the end of 1944 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of 20 males and 16 females who normally reside in the district. During the year 12 new cases were notified, ten on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs.

During the same period 3 deaths of persons suffering from this disease occurred.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages).

| Disease. | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------|--------|
| Tuberculosis | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Cancer (all forms) | 7 | 11 | 18 |
| Heart and Blood Vessels ... | 18 | 17 | 35 |
| Syphilitic Diseases | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Bronchitis and Pneumonia ... | 12 | 2 | 14 |
| Diseases of Digestive System ... | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Nephritis | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Congenital Conditions ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Violence | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Other Causes | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Total | 47 | 41 | 88 |